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USIB-D-41.13/33
(COMOR-D-25/218)
16 September 1966
Special Limited
Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : System XVIIB for OXCART

REFERENCE : USIB-D-41.13/32 (COMOR-D-25/214)
23 March 1966, Special Limited Distribution

1. The attached memorandum from the Director, National Reconnaissance Office (D/NRO) is circulated for the information of the Board Members at this time. It responds to a United States Intelligence Board (USIB) request (see reference) that NRO explore the feasibility of installing a System XVII as an optional piece of equipment in the OXCART and improve the present System XVII to achieve a more precise direction-finding capability.

2. The attachment is referred herewith to the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR) for comment and a report to USIB.

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Executive Secretary

Attachment

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Excluded from automatic
declassification

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Attachment
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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

September 14, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: System XVIIB for OXCART

1. A study to determine the feasibility of repackaging System XVII for installation in an OXCART vehicle without interference with the primary photographic payload has been completed. The feasibility study indicates that a System XVII can be packaged in a form such that it would fit into one of the existing chine boxes now utilized to accommodate the [redacted] systems. There are two chine box receptacles built into the framework of the OXCART vehicle, one on each side of the main fuselage. They are normally utilized to accommodate [redacted] systems. A System XVII, to be designated as XVIIB for the OXCART application, packaged to fit into a chine box, can be installed or removed from an OXCART vehicle in one hour, the time normally required to rotate existing [redacted] packages. It is planned that whenever a requirement for System XVIIB exists, that the system be loaded into one chine box receptacle while the other chine be configured with a [redacted] system appropriate for the particular mission.

2. [redacted]

[redacted] These antennas, currently used with a small Signal Intercept Package (SIP), can be employed with System XVIIB. The SIP is a collection device which produces certain limited information intended to assist in the assessment of the vulnerability of the vehicle to radar tracking. It is unnecessary to carry SIP when System XVIIB is on board.

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3. The existing (SIP) antenna system was not designed to provide DF information; however, a limited capability for left to right information is available at the lowest frequencies [redacted]. In response to the USIB request, a study will be initiated to investigate techniques that might be applicable for improving the DF capability. If a practical system can be devised, the increase in DF capability will be added at a later date.

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4. We have undertaken to build two new Systems XVIIB for OXCART and leave the existing equipments available for other uses. The demand for use of the two existing equipments for IDEALIST application is sufficient to justify adding two additional Systems XVIIB to the OXCART inventory. Current schedule for delivery of the two new systems as well as the time required to repackage existing Systems XVII to a chine box (B) configuration is eight months from go-ahead. Flight test and evaluation will require approximately one additional month if the flights are integrated into the over-all vehicle test program.

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